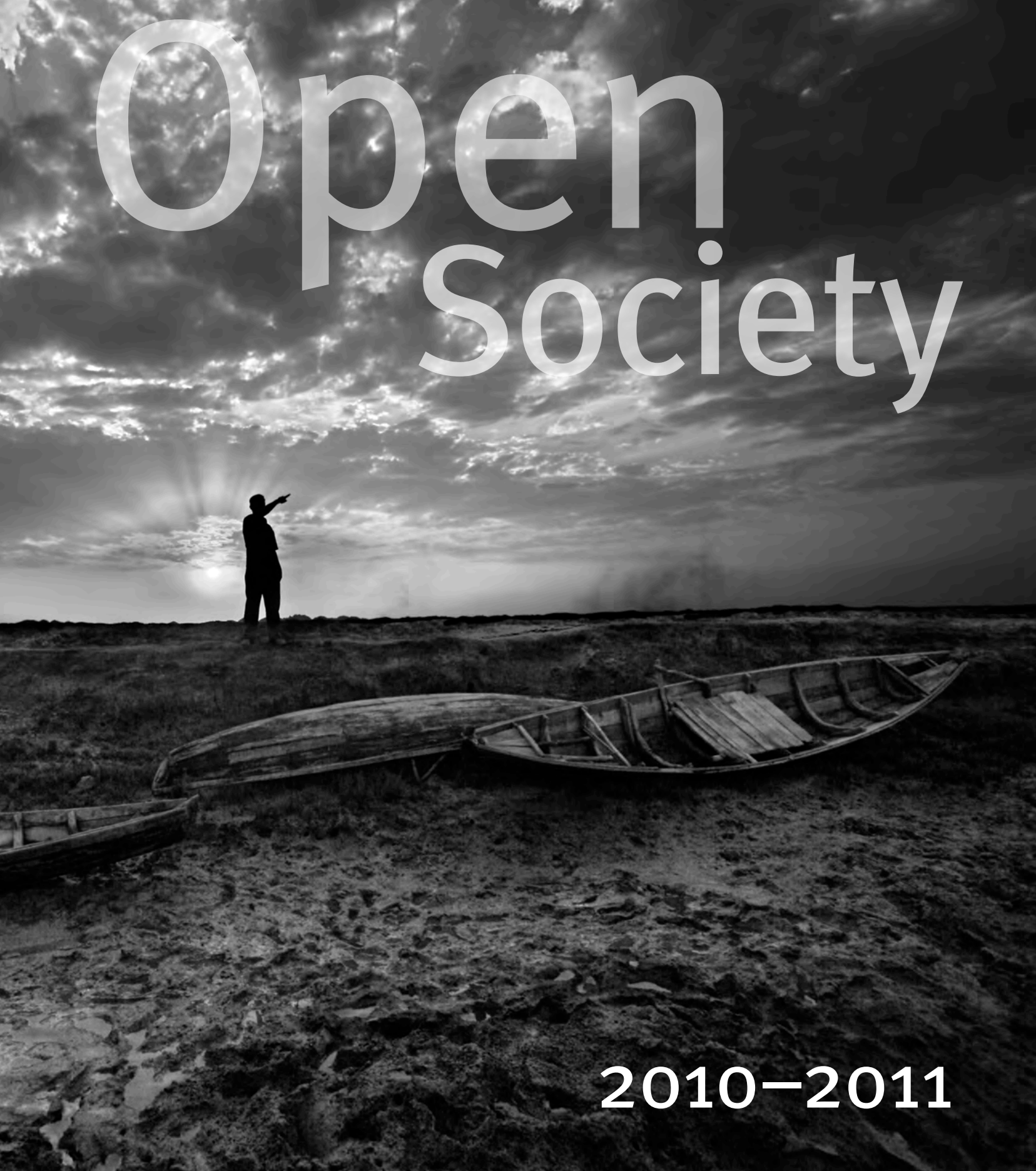


# Open Society



2010–2011



# Open Society 2010–2011



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# introduction

The Open Society Foundations operate in every part of the world supporting a wide range of partners and grantees to strengthen rights and justice, health, media and information, governance and accountability, and education and youth. Our mutual accomplishments over the past three decades are substantial.

With our help, grantees have worked to foster democratic practice, respect for the rule of law, protection of the rights of minorities, and civil and political liberties in dozens of countries, including places that for generations have known only repressive, authoritarian rule. We have collaborated with others in promoting freedom of information laws, accountability for natural resource revenues, and the international human rights movement. We have joined in the struggle to provide legal assistance to criminal defendants, reduce the arbitrary use of pretrial detention, and eliminate discriminatory practices against minorities, including immigrants, Roma, and Muslims in Europe, the United States, and elsewhere.

In 2010–2011, we kept up our efforts to build open society. In the area of rights and justice, for example, the Foundations helped organize mobile courts in the Democratic Republic of Congo to try military personnel accused of rape, documented the socioeconomic costs of pretrial detention, and promoted the inclusion of Muslims in European communities.

In health, we campaigned against torture in health care, such as the forcible detention of drug users, the sterilization of women, and the denial of pain relief to the terminally ill. In media and information, we began mapping digital media to show how technology and organizational changes are affecting the freedom and democratic functions of the media.

In governance and accountability, we led a campaign that challenged an effort to have UNESCO institute a prize in the name of Equatorial Guinea’s president, Teodoro Obiang, head of one of the world’s most corrupt, abusive regimes. In education and youth, we expanded our support for debate programs that are preparing young people around the world to be active participants in society.

These are only a few of the recent activities of the Open Society Foundations. More stories about our work and the efforts of our partners and grantees can be found on the following pages, and many more on our website, [www.soros.org](http://www.soros.org).

# rights and

“I trusted the state to bring my son back to society.

The same institution took his life away in less than two hours.

They say my son was trying to run away and he fell

from a wall, which is not true. I feel helpless.

I am poor, I am black. A businessman’s child is killed,

you see justice very, very quickly. But for poor people

justice is very slow.”

- Deize Silva de Carvalho, mother of a young man who died while in pretrial detention in Brazil, interviewed by the Open Society Justice Initiative. Rio de Janeiro, January 2011.

# justice

“Each day I couldn’t go out without hearing some sort of comment or insult.

Throughout one journey in the metro, there was someone behind me saying,

‘You’re scary,’ ‘Your place is not here,’ and ‘Go back to your country.’

I knew there was racism, but I didn’t realize people could insult you like that.

Respecting a person is important, whatever your religion, whoever you are,

whether you wear the headscarf or not, whether you wear the niqab or not.

Respect must be there. It’s what allows us to live together.

If there is not respect, there is nothing.”

- Jameelah, 21, Paris, *Unveiling the Truth: Why 32 Muslim Women Wear the Full-face Veil in France*, on how the controversy over banning the veil in public encouraged hostility toward women wearing the veil.

# 2011 overview

The Open Society Foundations advance human rights and justice around the world by advocating equality for minorities and women, supporting international war crimes tribunals, and helping institute national legal reforms that ensure freedom of information, promote sentencing alternatives, and protect the rights of criminal defendants.

International justice issues pursued in 2011 included continuing to organize mobile courts in the Democratic Republic of Congo to travel to remote, war-torn regions and conduct trials of military personnel accused of rape and other acts of sexual violence. In a major victory in February, a mobile court ordered a colonel, three junior officers, and five soldiers to serve sentences ranging from 10 to 20 years for carrying out the rapes of dozens of women and girls in the town of Fizi on New Year's Day. In 2010, in the province of South Kivu, the courts heard 115 rape cases, delivering 95 convictions and prison sentences ranging from 5 to 20 years. The courts are part of the Open Society Justice Initiative's efforts to assist domestic legal systems in administering justice for international crimes.

We expanded our international justice monitoring efforts by launching the International Criminal Court Kenya Monitor, a website covering the investigation into Kenya's postelection violence in 2007. Kafa (Enough), an Open Society International







Defendant and 16-year-old rape survivor with attorneys in a mobile court for gender crimes. Idjwi, Democratic Republic of Congo, 2010.

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Women's Program grantee in Lebanon, achieved a long-sought goal as it helped bring a domestic violence bill before the Lebanese parliament.

The Open Society At Home in Europe Project released three new reports on Muslims in EU cities, showing that new policies had slowed Antwerp's progress on inclusion while the lack of Muslim participation in public policy decision making in Marseille hindered efforts to address serious inequities. In the third report, *Unveiling the Truth*, 32 Muslim women in France who wear the full-face veil described their experiences and feelings, debunking the myths and misrepresentations that fuel discriminatory laws and attitudes in Europe, including France's ban on wearing the veil. The Open Society Foundations' efforts to stop ethnic profiling by European police forces gained support as the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination warned the Spanish government that it was not in compliance because its police continued to engage in ethnic profiling. In France, more than 50 lawyers supported by the Justice Initiative launched the country's first constitutional challenge to ethnic profiling by the French police.

In China, the Open Society Foundations supported efforts by rights-based interest groups to combat discrimination and use the legal system to bring suit against government agencies, employers, educational institutions, and others who seek to keep them from enjoying full and equal rights. These efforts are crucial to the long-term development and sustainability of civil society in China, and, more broadly, to the formation of a society and government more fully responsive to the needs and rights of all of its citizens.

Open Society Foundations programs and activities continued to provide strong support for efforts to decriminalize homosexuality and advance the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex people across the world. The brutal murder of gay rights activist David Kato in Uganda, a country that continues to consider the death penalty for homosexuality, was a shocking reminder that much remains to be done.

As 2011 marked the 50th anniversary of the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, the Open Society Foundations continued to advocate for the rights of stateless groups and individuals, particularly children. In cooperation with Refugees International, the Open Society Justice Initiative produced a report documenting the situation of the Bidoon, a large population of stateless persons in the emirate of Kuwait. The Migration Policy Institute, an Open Society U.S. Programs grantee, released a report showing that a federal program intended to focus on deporting felons who were illegal aliens was often used by local law enforcement to seek out and deport immigrants who had committed misdemeanors or traffic violations.

Reducing and reforming the use of pretrial detention remained a priority. Several new projects in Mexico sought to increase respect for the rights of juveniles, use scarce resources (such as jail space) more effectively, and protect communities, including victims, from harm. The Justice Initiative and the United Nations Development Program produced *The Socioeconomic Impact of Pretrial Detention*, the first study that measures the full costs of excessive pretrial detention, including lost employment, stunted economic growth, the spread of disease and corruption, and the

misuse of state resources. In the United States, the Supreme Court's decision confirming the need to reduce overcrowding in California prisons was a victory for Open Society Foundations grantees who had called attention to the unsafe prison conditions created by the state's flawed sentencing and parole policies.

The Open Society Global Drug Policy Program, which seeks to shift policies from a punitive approach to one based on human rights and public health, released a new report, *Drug Policy in Portugal*, on the benefits of decriminalizing drug use. The Global Commission on Drug Policy, a grantee of the Global Drug Policy Program, attracted unprecedented worldwide media coverage highlighting broad support for reform of global drug policies.

The Open Society Foundations in September criticized an increase in night raids by international forces in Afghanistan as well as the mass, indiscriminate detention of civilians. Such actions put more civilians in harm's way and deepened popular hostility toward the international forces.

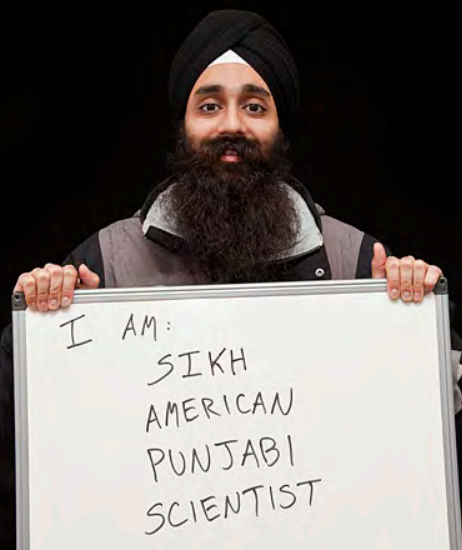
# 2010 rights highlights

## Trainings Help Judges Enforce Antidiscrimination Law in Albania

To improve implementation of Albania's new antidiscrimination law, the Open Society foundation in Albania organized trainings for 40 judges from Tirana's district court to help them understand and enforce the law's protections against discrimination on the basis of gender, race, ethnicity, religious belief, political opinion, and sexual orientation in education and employment. Working with the Council of Europe, the foundation also brought together international experts and 50 local judges, prosecutors, lawyers, and human rights activists to discuss how to apply the country's anti-Mafia law while adhering to international human rights standards. Legal aid services funded by the foundation helped victims of a 2008 ammunition dump explosion to press the government for compensation and to account for the accident that killed 26 persons and destroyed over 300 houses.

## New Mental Health Law Calls for Deinstitutionalization in Argentina

Argentina approved a mental health law that will help end discrimination against persons with psychosocial disabilities. With support from the Open Society Foundations, the Center for Legal and Social Studies worked on passage of the law, which prohibits the creation of new psychiatric institutions and calls for progressive deinstitutionalization and the creation of community-based mental health services. Diverging from attitudes that regard disability mainly as a medical condition to be treated or a social disadvantage worthy of charity, the law recognizes that mental health is not solely a "health" issue, but includes social, economic, and cultural dimensions. Argentina in 2008 was one of the first countries to ratify the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which challenges pervasive discriminatory practices, including denial of legal capacity, segregation from the community, and discrimination in employment and education.



Visitors to the At Home in Europe Project's photography booth at the 2010 Copenhagen Eid Festival described who they were with good-natured seriousness and humor.

SARAH COGHILL FOR THE OPEN SOCIETY FOUNDATIONS

## **Legal Victory Benefits Special Needs Students in Bosnia**

In the first of five crucial cases, a team of antidiscrimination lawyers successfully argued an access to education case that will benefit over 1,000 special needs students in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The team, assembled by the Open Society foundation in Bosnia, convinced a court that the regional government and ministry of education had violated a minor's human rights and access to education by not providing expert help that would contribute to inclusion and socialization. The court ordered the regional government and school system to provide the necessary special education services and expertise.

## **NGOs Increase Roma Voter Rolls and Political Participation**

A voter registration campaign in Serbia helped regional Roma advocates substantially increase participation and transparency in the Serbian elections for the Roma National Council. With leadership and funding from the Open Society Roma Initiatives in cooperation with the Serbian human rights ministry, Roma NGOs dispatched 120 grassroots activists in a door-to-door voter drive. Within four weeks, the campaign increased the number of registered Roma voters from 15,000 to 44,000, the level required for establishing a system of direct, democratic, and transparent elections for the Roma National Council.

## **Reports Challenge Stereotypes about Muslims in Europe**

Open Society Foundations reports and activities focusing on the integration of Muslim communities in 11 European cities generated a significant response from policymakers and the public in 2010. Produced by the At Home in Europe Project, the reports prompted policymakers in Denmark to invite project staff to comment on the country's draft integration plan for 2011–2014. In Norway, officials invited the project to address the country's newly formed inclusion commission. At Copenhagen's Eid Festival, residents shared their views on diversity at the project's photography booth. The project supported a documentary that highlighted the positive role French Muslims have played in the country's history. In cooperation with the British Council, the project organized a public debate on faith and identity in London and another in Copenhagen featuring European and North American artists of Muslim origin discussing integration from the perspective of art and culture.





## LGBTI Advocates Register Gains from Argentina to Uganda

In response to a regional and international campaign, the president of Malawi pardoned a same sex couple convicted of sodomy and sentenced to a maximum of 14 years hard labor. In Uganda, local advocacy by a coalition of human rights and LGBTI organizations and international pressure helped prompt the parliament to delay efforts to pass a contentious antihomosexuality bill that called for the death penalty for homosexuality and imprisonment for anyone failing to report information about homosexuality to the police. Grantees worked to make Argentina the first country in Latin America to allow same sex marriage and adoptions nationwide. In Europe, organizations successfully organized gay pride events in cities across the continent including Lithuania and Serbia where these events had been banned in the past or cancelled due to threats of violence. Advocates in Estonia and Latvia pushed for recognition of all rights for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex people, including the right to civil marriage and adoption.

## Stateless People in Thailand Secure Health Care and Basic Services

Ethnic minorities in Thailand face discrimination in acquiring Thai nationality, as well as other accompanying rights to basic services, including access to health care. In

2010, Open Society Foundations grantees Stateless Watch and the Lawyers Council of Thailand won a government funding commitment to provide health care to 400,000 stateless people and successfully litigated for citizenship rights for thousands of people. Another grantee, the Human Rights and Development Foundation, worked with civil society groups to successfully advocate for the right of over 1 million migrants living in Thailand to register motor vehicles and the right of stateless people to obtain driver's licenses.

## Grantees Fight Violence against Women in Nepal and Palestine

Saathi, a Nepali NGO focusing on women and families, helped draft key legislation regarding domestic violence in its efforts to combat violence against women and girls in Nepal. With funding from the Open Society Foundations, Saathi organized workshops on gender-based violence for the police, members of the judiciary, public administrators, educators, health officials, social workers, journalists, and NGO staff. It also maintained safe houses and shelters, providing survivors with trauma counseling, medical services, and skills training. The Women's Counseling and Legal Aid Center, another grantee, provided professional counseling and legal services for Palestinian women who are victims of violence and other human rights abuses as a result of the occupation.



Burmese democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi was released in November 2010 after more than 15 years under house arrest. On her hand is written the name of former political prisoner Soe Min Min, who was conditionally released on January 13, 2012, but like all other political prisoners, faces the threat of rearrest at any time.

© JAMES MACKAY

## Videos Highlight Latin America's Harsh Drug Sentencing Policies

*The Human Face*, a series of short films produced by an Open Society Foundations grantee, showed internet audiences the injustice and suffering caused by harsh sentences for minor drug crimes in Latin America. The videos, which were viewed over 82,000 times in six months, feature people like Mario, a construction worker struggling to feed his family by working nights helping process coca leaves. When he was caught in a raid seven years ago, he got a 10-year sentence with little to no chance for parole. As momentum in Latin America grows for a shift away from prohibitionist drug policies, the Drug Law Reform in Latin America project produced the videos as part of a study of prison systems in Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, Peru, and Uruguay.

## Young Wheelchair Users Help Make Policy in Kazakhstan

A group of young wheelchair users in Kazakhstan conducted research on how civil society and government officials should confront social challenges facing youth with disabilities. The group, part of an Open Society foundation in Kazakhstan project, used their findings to recommend policies to reduce marginalization and improve the integration of youth with disabilities into society. The project helps young people learn how to conduct fact-based, credible research that increases their involvement in public policymaking. The foundation received 37 research proposals and selected eight winners working on issues such as fostering integration in southern Kazakhstan, providing affordable quality public health care, developing municipal housing for disadvantaged groups, and improving social services for blind and visually impaired citizens.

# 2010 justice highlights



## Pretrial Detainees in Brazil and Liberia Obtain Relief and Release

In Espírito Santo, Brazil, Open Society Foundations grantees investigating human rights violations in the prison system discovered 500 men held in metal cargo containers, where temperatures reached 50 degrees Celsius, and 235 detainees in cells with a capacity for only 36 people. The two grantees, Conectas and Justiça Global, charged the state with neglect. The Brazilian Superior Court of Justice, describing the overcrowded container and cell conditions as “inhumane imprisonment that openly disregards constitutional guarantees,” ordered the detainees released or transferred to better facilities. In Liberia, the Open Society Foundations supported the ABA and its partners, the Catholic Justice and Peace Commission and Prison Fellowship Liberia, in training lawyers and prison monitors, and assisting a special court in the country’s largest prison to process cases quickly, resulting in the release of hundreds from prolonged pretrial detention.

## Grantees Challenge War Crimes, Human Trafficking, and Child Abuse

The Open Society Human Rights and Governance Grants Program supported grantees in 2010 that successfully pursued record damages awards, investigations, and legislative reforms. At the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR), two program grantees obtained a decision ordering the Russian government to award almost 2 million euros in damages to 29 Chechens for the bombardment of their village in 2000. In another grantee case, the ECHR issued its first sex worker case ruling, determining that Russia and Cyprus had violated the European Convention on Human Rights by not protecting the life and investigating the death of a Russian woman trafficked as a sex worker from Russia to Cyprus. In Bulgaria, a grantee-led investigation revealed that from 2000 to 2010 almost 240 children in state homes for the mentally disabled had died, largely due to neglect and abuse, which prompted a criminal investigation by the national prosecutor’s office.

Deize Silva de Carvalho visited her son’s grave in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, January 2011. Her son died in 2008 while in police custody.

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## **Global Leaders Demand Drug Policies Based on Science, Not Politics**

The Vienna Declaration, a global call for drug policy to be based on science, not ideology, attracted over 17,000 endorsements weeks after it was launched at the XVIII International AIDS Conference. The declaration, created by the International Centre for Science in Drug Policy with the support of the Open Society Foundations, calls for the decriminalization of drug use and a transparent review of the effectiveness of current drug policies. The municipalities of Toronto, Victoria, and Vancouver, Canada, have endorsed the declaration; its signatories include three former Latin American presidents, Fernando Henrique Cardoso (Brazil), Cesar Gaviria (Colombia), and Ernesto Zedillo (Mexico), as well as Michel Kazatchkine, then head of the Global Fund for AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, and Michel Sidibe, head of UNAIDS.

## **Mexico Creates Fund for Human Rights Abuse Victims**

In a series of decisions, the Inter-American Court on Human Rights found the Mexican government and military officials liable for institutional discrimination against women as well as three individual cases of forced disappearance and rape. The court urged the government to provide economic reparations for the victims and their relatives. Civil society and human rights grantees supported by the Open Society Foundations advocated for the government to implement the court's rulings.

In November, the Mexican Congress approved the creation of a fund of 30 million Mexican pesos in the 2011 budget for reparations for the victims cited in the rulings and for past human rights abuses.

## **South Africa Foundation Works to Reform Prison Policies**

To facilitate reform of the prison system, the Open Society foundation in South Africa worked with the department of correctional services to institutionalize monitoring techniques that will help ensure national and international human rights treatment standards for detainees and prisoners. The foundation also began to challenge the destructive cycle of recidivism by organizing South Africa's first conference on the topic. International and national experts and government officials worked to develop an authoritative study that will enable civil society and officials to confirm the extent of recidivism in South Africa and inform progressive policies to address it.

## **Open Society Foundations Give Ukraine's Rural Poor Access to Justice**

The Open Society Foundations legal empowerment of the poor initiative provided about 20,000 legal aid consultations to residents of impoverished rural communities in Ukraine. With the Open Society foundation in Ukraine, the initiative worked through a network of 24 law centers in small communities to help people in rural areas resolve issues related to property rights, small business development, and labor disputes. The centers use a combination of lawyers, local paralegals, and volunteers to help impoverished groups.

## **NGOs Hold Oil Company Accountable in Mongolia**

The Open Society Foundations worked with good governance and environmental NGOs to challenge a Chinese petroleum company's exploitation of Mongolian resources. Litigation exposed a web of self-serving regulations and agreements between the government and PetroChina Dachin Tamsag. Pollution and environmental destruction caused by the company's operations have contributed to increased desertification and damaged wool and cashmere production in the surrounding region. Effective advocacy, media coverage, and public outrage helped prompt the company to negotiate compensation for damage to the environment and the traditional livelihoods of local shepherds and weavers.

## **New Website Monitors Postelection Violence Investigations in Kenya**

The Open Society Justice Initiative added a new website to monitor the investigation by the International Criminal Court into postelection violence in 2007 and 2008 in Kenya. Seeking to generate public participation in the justice process, [www.icckkenya.org](http://www.icckkenya.org) offers background material on the proceedings, a regular roundup of Kenyan media commentary, courtroom updates, analysis, and, most importantly, space for public discussion. The Justice Initiative's monitoring efforts include sites tracking the International Criminal Court trials of Thomas Lubanga, Jean-Pierre Bemba, Germain Katanga, and Matthieu Ngudjolo, as well as the trial of Charles Taylor before the Special Court for Sierra Leone.



A woman stood outside a building in Tskhinvali, Georgia, pocked with bullet holes and shrapnel marks from the war in August 2008.

© SERGEY MAXIMISHIN/PANOS PICTURES



## **Report Documents War Crimes in South Ossetia**

A report produced by the Open Society foundation in Georgia documented systematic ethnic cleansing by Russian and South Ossetian forces during the Russian-Georgian war of August 2008. With foundation support, local human rights organizations conducted interviews with internally displaced people and compared materials from local officials and international organizations. The report concluded that Russian and South Ossetian forces used aerial bombing and house-to-house operations to remove the ethnic Georgian population from villages in the South Ossetian territory. International Criminal Court investigator Luis Moreno-Ocampo said the report would provide valuable documentation for his war crimes investigation of the conflict.

## **Broadcasters and Children's Rights Advocates Win Cases in Armenia**

With help from the Open Society foundation in Armenia, a TV broadcaster used an earlier European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) censorship decision against the government to relaunch its case in national courts. After the 2008 ECHR decision, lawyers had asked Armenia's appeals court to reopen the case. The appeals court refused, but was overruled in 2010 by Armenia's Constitutional Court, which ordered a review in light of the ECHR finding. The case establishes the ECHR as an

option for challenging rulings by national courts. Another case involved support for a children's rights activist who exposed abuses at a state institution for children with special needs. The state tried to silence the activist with a barrage of slander charges but project lawyers showed them to be baseless and compelled the government to drop the case.

## **U.S. President and Congress Reform Discriminatory Drug Sentencing**

President Barack Obama signed the Fair Sentencing Act, which reforms racially discriminatory drug sentencing in the United States. For nearly a quarter of a century, U.S. courts gave the same mandatory five-year sentence to someone possessing or distributing 5 grams of crack cocaine as to someone selling 500 grams of powder cocaine. Over the years, this sentencing disparity disproportionately imprisoned tens of thousands of African Americans. The Justice Roundtable, a coalition convened by the Open Society Policy Center, successfully challenged this discriminatory sentencing by working with civil society grantees, criminal justice groups, prosecutorial and law enforcement organizations, and political and religious conservatives. The new law makes sentences for crack cocaine offenses more comparable to those of powder cocaine. The coalition will continue to push for complete parity and retroactive application of the change in the law.

## U.S. Court Ends Life in Prison for Nonhomicide Crimes for Juveniles

After a long campaign by criminal justice reform groups supported by the Open Society Foundations, the U.S. Supreme Court finally ended one of the harshest penalties for juveniles in the U.S. criminal justice system: life imprisonment without parole for nonhomicide crimes. In its opinion in *Graham v. Florida*, the Court reasoned that juveniles are fundamentally different from adults and have a unique ability to reform their lives. The decision is likely to have an immediate impact on the 129 people serving life without parole sentences for nonhomicide crimes committed as juveniles and could eventually result in sentencing changes for the more than 2,000 serving life without parole for homicides.

## Groups Use Law and Dialogue to Seek Justice in Kyrgyzstan

The Open Society Foundations provided legal aid and helped develop projects in Kyrgyzstan to reduce ethnic tensions and promote democratic governance. Legal aid support helped local lawyers advocating for hundreds of victims of the political and ethnic violence in April and June win close to \$1 million in government compensation and relief payments. The Open Society foundation in Kyrgyzstan supported regional and national discussions to strengthen the constitution's human rights protections and deflate ethnic tensions. The Open Society Foundations also

provided the UNDP with \$1.5 million to improve community infrastructure in 51 villages in Kyrgyzstan's multiethnic southern regions.

## Campaign Makes Gains toward Ending Child Labor in Uzbekistan

Efforts by the Open Society Foundations to end child labor in Uzbekistan's cotton industry gained momentum as the number of the world's largest apparel brands and retailers with policies on Uzbek cotton reached 64. Among these, 46 have instructed suppliers not to procure any cotton harvested in Uzbekistan. The changes result from a four-year international campaign supported by the Open Society Central Eurasia Project and led by a coalition of NGOs, including the International Labor Rights Forum and Antislavery International, among others. One coalition member, the European Center for Constitutional and Human Rights, has filed seven OECD-mediated complaints against European businesses buying Uzbek cotton, drawing attention to the issue by media and officials in Europe. At the end of 2010, Germany's human rights commissioner publicly called upon the Uzbek government to abolish child labor in the country.

## **New Orleans and Baltimore Reject Large New Jails**

Activists in New Orleans and Baltimore, supported by the Open Society Foundations, managed to halt the construction of large new jails, clearing the way for consideration of alternatives to incarceration that shift resources to services more beneficial to communities. In New Orleans, the mayor rejected the sheriff's plans for an 8,000-bed jail and the city council authorized the construction of a smaller 1,438-bed jail and the demolition or decommissioning of other facilities, effectively capping the jail population. In Baltimore, the governor of Maryland held off, for at least two years, construction of a \$100 million jail for teenagers facing adult charges. The delay gives advocates time to persuade officials that the money would be better spent keeping children in school and out of the criminal justice system.

## **Human Rights and Democracy Groups Challenge Continued Repression in Turkmenistan**

Together with Human Rights Watch and the Turkmen Initiative for Human Rights, the Open Society Turkmenistan Project monitored and documented government violations of freedom of movement, particularly government restrictions and punishments aimed at students wishing to study abroad. The monitoring prompted the U.S. Department of State and the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs to intervene on students' behalf. The project also worked with international organizations and local activists to challenge the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development's 2010 country strategy by showing that Turkmenistan was not complying with the bank's political and economic requirements. During the year, the project briefed U.S. government agencies and the European Commission, especially in advance of any bilateral dialogues or in-country missions.

# health



A 24-year-old mother, who had learned she was HIV positive, talked to a nurse about the prevention of mother-to-child transmission, Lesotho, 2009.

© JENNY MATTHEWS/PANOS PICTURES

“The doctor said ‘Josephina you are done. You cannot have any more babies.’

I said, ‘How can I not have more babies? I didn’t come to the hospital for that.’

The doctor said, ‘You are HIV positive, why would you need to have babies?’

I said, ‘No, whether or not I am HIV positive, I still have a right to have a baby!’

Then I started to cry.”

- Josephina Ipinge, duped into sterilization by hospital staff in Namibia because she was HIV positive, interview video at [www.stoptortureinhealthcare.org](http://www.stoptortureinhealthcare.org)

# 2011 overview

Throughout the world, people who face stigma and discrimination are often left with substandard or no health care. The Open Society Foundations work to establish health policies and practices that are based on evidence and promote social inclusion, human rights, and justice.

Concerned about the relationship between public health and human rights, the Open Society Foundations partnered with other health and rights organizations to launch the Campaign to Stop Torture in Health Care. The campaign focuses on how governments and societies across the world either pursue or tolerate policies that forcibly detain drug users, sterilize

women, and deny pain relief to the terminally ill in the name of medicine, public health, or public order. As part of these efforts, the Open Society Public Health Program produced the video *50 Milligrams Is Not Enough*. Set in Ukraine, the documentary highlights the need for governments to provide effective levels of pain treatment medications such as morphine as a basic right to health and to protect terminally ill patients against cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment.

In Moscow, groups of people living with HIV persuaded a pharmaceutical company to reduce the price of its antiretroviral drugs by 50 percent and for the Ministry of Health to launch a new lower-priced tender for antiretrovirals.

Other public health projects worked to advance access to health care and the human rights of marginalized groups such as sex workers. One effort helped sex worker groups go beyond safe sex and harm reduction services to include providing legal services and advocating for the decriminalization of sex work. In February, the Open Society Public Health Program and UNDP held a two-day regional dialogue on the legal responses to HIV in Asia and the Pacific. Participants heard evidence from sex workers and lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender persons about how criminalization affects their ability to access sexual health services and protect themselves from HIV.



A man with AIDS held up his son while his wife looked on, August 2011, Ukraine. The man lacked access to essential medicines and treatment.

© BRENT STIRTON/GETTY REPORTAGE



# 2010 highlights

## Women Fight Forced Sterilization in Southern Africa

On behalf of HIV-positive women who were sterilized without their consent, civil society groups sued the Namibian government for human rights violations. The Legal Assistance Centre and the Southern African Litigation Centre argued that sterilization procedures violated the women's rights to life, privacy, and freedom from cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment. Hearings on the lawsuit sparked mass mobilizations and public demonstrations by HIV and human rights activists in support of the women. As part of the Campaign to Stop Torture in Health Care, the Open Society Foundations provided support to the activists and legal groups in Namibia for the first-ever documentation report on forced sterilization in South Africa. The campaign also formed a global working group that engaged with the International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics to strengthen its guidelines on sterilization and informed consent.

## People with Mental Disabilities Win Community-based Services

The Open Society Mental Health Initiative partnered with the Moldovan government to move 35 children and young adults out of institutions, and prevented another 29 from being admitted. The initiative worked to develop services in communities across Moldova to support these children and their families, as well as hundreds of other children and adults with mental disabilities. The Open Society Foundations provide financial and technical support to help local and national governments develop community-based services and put an end to the practice of segregating people with mental disabilities in institutions.

## Advocates Hold Africa’s First Transgender Health Care Meeting

The first meeting on transgender health in Africa brought together activists, government officials, and medical experts to establish research and advocacy priorities for developing a rights-based approach to providing health care to transgender people. Funded by the Open Society Foundations and organized by the South African-based NGO, Gender Dynamix, the November meeting allowed attendees to hear from transgender individuals who spoke about their negative experiences within the health system and the discrimination they encounter in their daily lives. Health professionals at the conference, including plastic surgeons, sexologists, general practitioners, and counselors, discussed the provision of health services that respected the rights of transgender people and evaluated possible strategies to expand such practices within the health system.

## Civil Society Prompts Increased Spending for Essential Medicines

Efforts by civil society groups in Kenya helped double the government’s funding for essential medicines in the 2010 budget. The Ministry of Finance’s earmarking of almost \$66 million for the purchase of essential medicines (excluding antiretroviral drugs) marked a 76 percent increase compared to the previous year’s budget, while funds allocated for the purchase of antiretroviral drugs increased

by 80 percent. The increases were largely the result of a campaign led by the Civil Society Network on Access to Essential Medicines that highlighted the lack of basic drugs at public health facilities in eastern and southern Africa. The budget increases capped two years of support for advocacy campaigns by the Open Society Public Health Program and Open Society initiatives in eastern and southern Africa.

## Open Society Analysis Holds Drug Policy Reform Accountable

A first of its kind analysis in Slovakia found that drug policy reforms had not met their goals in addressing cases of possession of illegal drugs for personal use. While changes in 2006 helped clarify distinctions between illegal drug users and drug dealers, the analysis conducted by the Open Society foundation in Slovakia showed that the government continued to prosecute and punish people who possessed drugs for personal use, not drug dealers. The study also revealed continuing police harassment of groups and individuals participating in needle exchange programs. The results of the study prompted the foundation to facilitate a series of public discussions with NGOs, experts from civil society, and representatives from the police, judiciary, and prosecutor’s office.

## Civil Society and Government Work Together to Bring Relief to Detained Drug Users in Moldova

Up until 2010, Moldova had provided substitution therapy with methadone only in prisons, not in pretrial detention units. Once in detention, people who had been participating in substitution therapy were suddenly and painfully cut off from their medication. This discontinuation of care amounted to inhumane and cruel punishment. Interruption of methadone therapy in pretrial detention may also make patients return to injecting drug use once they are released. To address this treatment gap, the Open Society foundation in Moldova and the World Health Organization partnered with the ministries of justice and the interior to ensure continuity of substitution therapy in both pretrial detention units and prisons. The expansion of care has helped make Moldova's prison harm reduction program a model of good practice and hands-on HIV prevention.

## Azerbaijan and Kyrgyzstan Expand Harm Reduction Programs

Azerbaijan's parliament and president approved a new law legalizing harm reduction practices and policy in both prisons and the larger society. The recognition of harm reduction as an important and necessary response to the HIV epidemic resulted from a strong collaboration with government officials and parliament members initiated by civil society networks made up of people living with HIV, drug users, sex workers, street children, migrants, and men who have sex with men. The Open Society foundation in Kyrgyzstan also helped public health organizations and civil society groups develop the country's funding application to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. In December, the Global Fund provided about \$40 million in funding to cover all of the request's priorities, including antiretroviral therapy for drug users, naloxone, harm reduction projects for women and injection drug users, and high quality testing for TB and hepatitis C.

# media and



Internet café, Wuhan, Hubei Province, China.

© CANCAN CHU/GETTY IMAGES

# information

“One of the key findings of my research and that of many others

is the tendency of television news to show

young black males disproportionately as perpetrators of crime.

Television remains the most important source of news.

When whites see images of black males accused of crimes,

experiments show that they become more fearful of crime and

more punitive than when they see white defendants.”

— Robert Entman, author of *The Black Image in the White Mind: Media and Race in America*, interviewed on the Open Society Blog, December 6, 2010.

# 2011 overview

A free and independent press ensures government accountability and is vital to any democracy. A dynamic media and information sector encourages a diversity of viewpoints and the scrutiny of political and economic institutions and officials. The Open Society Foundations support public access to knowledge, inclusion of minority voices in media, and artistic expression that addresses pressing social issues.

Open Society Foundations programs and grantees working with journalists and civil society groups in Nigeria achieved a major victory in May 2011 when President Goodluck Jonathan signed the country's first Freedom of Information Act into law. The European Commission committed to enhanced support and programs for media freedom in South Eastern Europe following calls from the Open Society Foundations' Brussels office for an EU response to restrictions on freedom of expression and media in the region. In Pakistan, the Open Society Foundations, responding to the murders of journalists in early 2011, strengthened journalist organizations and provided trainings on security.

The Open Society Foundations helped call the international community's attention to the rise of intimidation tactics and

detentions, by all sides in the Afghanistan conflict, against journalists trying to document the war's civilian casualties.

The first *Mapping Digital Media* reports, produced by the Open Society Media Program, began documenting how technology and organizational changes are impacting the freedom and democratic functions of media systems around the world. In Kyrgyzstan, local Open Society foundation support for greater public access to social media helped citizens exchange information with each other and the outside world during the civil unrest in April. Citizen Engagement Laboratory, an Open Society grantee in the United States, helped immigrants and Latinos use new media to challenge mainstream media fear mongering and misinformation about immigration.

*Freedom Riders*, a documentary produced by grantee Firelight Media, premiered on the PBS series *American Experience*; the documentary's stories about 1960s American civil rights workers will be used in community organizing campaigns. The Open Society Documentary Photography Project provided production grants to photographers in Afghanistan, the Caucasus, Central Asia, Mongolia, and Pakistan to cover human rights and social justice issues in their home countries. In May, a Documentary Photography Project photographer exhibited a six-year body of work in Kazakhstan that portrayed migrant workers in the region and informed viewers about the rights and obligations of workers and employers.

# 2010 highlights

## Legal Challenge to EU Data Retention Directive Goes Forward

After four years of intense legal efforts by an Open Society Foundations grantee, Ireland's high court ruled that the group could challenge Europe's Data Retention Directive at the European Court of Justice. The directive forces telecommunications providers in EU member states to maintain records of their customers' communication activities for consultation by law enforcement authorities. Digital Rights Ireland argued that the directive breached fundamental rights, including the right to privacy; the Irish court noted "it is of great importance to define the legitimate legal limits of modern surveillance techniques used by governments." The directive has also faced constitutional complaints from other EU member states, including Bulgaria, Germany, Hungary, and Romania.

## Harnessing New Media for Social Change in Georgia

Civil society groups in Georgia held the country's first social innovation for new media camp. At the camp, 40 web designers, experienced journalists, marketing specialists, and NGO representatives from Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia worked in six groups to find digital solutions to six social issues. Judges and members of the public picked two website winners. One site addressed environmental issues surrounding illegal tree cutting in Armenia and the other exposed government institutions that fail to provide citizens with public information.



## Roma Mentors and Artists Challenge Stereotypes

The Open Society Foundations' Roma Mentor Project brought professional Roma painters, musicians, photographers, journalists, dancers, and designers to 1,200 children in ethnically mixed classes at 54 schools and community centers in Bulgaria, Hungary, Macedonia, and Slovakia. Presentations and instruction from Roma mentors help fight stereotypes, change negative attitudes, develop awareness about Roma culture, and motivate Roma youth to study. In the Czech Republic, the Foundations supported the 12th annual Khamoro Festival in Prague, which attracted some 83,000 visitors to its traditional and contemporary Roma art and crafts. In Hungary, Roma and non-Roma audiences at schools, universities, prisons, festivals, and community centers viewed a traveling documentary film show and a theater project that helped mediate conflict between Roma and non-Roma populations in remote northeastern villages.

## Libraries Help Distribute Local Research and Expertise

Social researchers in many developing countries are often frustrated by the lack of data produced by local experts and institutions. In Mozambique, Aissa Mitha Issak, a university librarian who works with a library initiative supported by the Open Society Foundations, addressed this information gap by helping develop the Saber repository. Saber is Mozambique's first publicly accessible archive of research produced by local sources on issues like agriculture, tropical disease, and education. A similar project in Macedonia has helped librarians launch the country's first open access repository of in-country research at the Institute of Economics in Skopje.

## Investigative Journalists in Peru Expose Official Corruption

Across Latin America, investigative journalism has declined while crime and political corruption have continued to grow. The Open Society Foundations are working to reverse this trend by supporting media groups like IDL-Reporteros in Peru. An IDL-Reporteros investigation of the government's purchase of armored personnel carriers at a hyper-inflated price, picked up by traditional national media, resulted in the Peruvian president, Alan García, eventually cancelling the purchase. Another IDL-Reporteros article about the government selling property valued at \$12 million for a mere \$1,780 helped prompt the cancellation of the contract, the resignation of the director of the state property agency, and the firing and arrest of a number of other high-ranking agency officials.

## Roma Film Finds Festival Success

*Music in the Blood*, a film about a Roma security guard and his son, received the Best Romanian Short Film award in April at the NexT International Film Festival in Bucharest. Produced with support from the Open Society Foundations, the film tells the story of a father who, convinced that his son is a gifted musician, enters into the world of a Roma pop music producer who has launched other child stars. *Music in the Blood* is one of many examples of the Open Society Foundations using the arts to challenge anti-Roma prejudice and promote tolerance and cultural understanding.

## U.S. Congress Investigates Military Fuel Contracts in Kyrgyzstan

A U.S. congressional investigation into fuel-supply practices at the U.S./NATO transit center in Kyrgyzstan revealed that the Defense Department was lax in overseeing fuel contracts for the airbase. The revelations highlighted the hidden costs of Pentagon actions, including enabling corruption and downplaying governance and human rights concerns in U.S. foreign policy toward the war in Afghanistan. The investigation, which followed the downfall of President Kurmanbek Bakiyev's administration amid popular protests in April, relied heavily on information from eurasianet.org and the Central Eurasia Project, both Open Society Foundations programs.



Journalist Marie Colvin interviewed a protester in Tahrir Square, Cairo, Egypt, April 2011. She was killed in Syria in early 2012.

© IVOR PRICKETT/PANOS PICTURES

## Civil Society Battles Repressive South African Media Law

Civil society organizations in South Africa fought government efforts to adopt a draconian media law, one of many attempts to limit media freedom and roll back access to information rights enshrined in the country's constitution. More than 400 organizations participated in a public campaign against enactment of the Protection of Information Bill, which would impose penalties of up to 25 years in prison on whistleblowers, activists, and journalists who expose information in the public interest. While the campaign prompted a line-by-line review of the legislation, parliament passed a little improved version of the bill in early 2011 and civil society groups geared up for a constitutional challenge to nullify the act.

## Mentoring and Collaboration Bring Roma Stories to Large Audiences

A journalism mentoring program for Roma reporters used multimedia storytelling to counter stereotypes and strengthen relationships between Roma and non-Roma journalists. Working together as mentors and collaborators, the journalists from Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania, and Slovakia produced reports on how Roma stood up against homophobia in their own communities and how others overcame poverty to excel in school and aspire to be human rights lawyers. The project, carried

out by Open Society Foundations grantee Transitions Online, exposed larger audiences to the reality of Roma lives and helped the journalists receive half a million euros in EU funding for two large-scale Roma reporting projects to debunk Roma stereotypes.

## Campaign Pushes Reform of Repressive Libel Laws in the United Kingdom

A libel reform campaign to support civil society efforts to change the U.K.'s draconian libel policies gained further momentum. The combination of harsh penalties and the ease with which people can bring libel charges in the United Kingdom has led to "libel tourism," with large numbers of people coming to England and Wales to file charges in hopes of quick and favorable resolutions. The campaign, developed by the Open Society Foundations, increased public awareness about how the libel laws allow people with little connection to the country to use its courts for frivolous cases and have a negative impact on global freedom of expression. The campaign's activities helped prompt the government to develop a libel reform law that will be presented in the House of Lords in 2012.

## Journalists Defeat Ugandan Sedition Law Used to Silence Government Critics

Since 2005, Uganda's ruling party repeatedly has introduced draconian laws to exclude or silence the nongovernmental sector, the media, and the political opposition. In 2010, the Open Society Foundations supported civil society efforts to oppose government attempts at undermining constitutional protections. Journalists won a major victory when the Constitutional Court abolished the crime of sedition. The decision stops the government from using trumped-up criminal charges to silence critics and demonstrated that the court can still check executive power. Filed by the Media Institute, an Open Society Foundations grantee, the case has also strengthened Uganda's compliance with international legal obligations on free speech.

## Radio Broadcasts Ease Resettlement for 100,000 Bhutanese Refugees

Over the last three years, a major resettlement project for over 100,000 Bhutanese refugees of Nepalese origin living in eastern Nepal has been a potential lightning rod for conflict. Some members of the refugee community insisted on complete repatriation to Bhutan while a majority of the refugees wanted to start new lives through permanent resettlement after years of statelessness. The Open Society Foundations worked to defuse tension by supporting radio broadcasts and the distribution of 18,000 inexpensive FM radio sets (one for every refugee hut). Locally produced radio programs explained the resettlement process and other options, facilitating discussion and understanding that helped resettlement unfold with a minimum of conflict and disruption.

# governance accountability



# and

“The UNESCO-Obiang Nguema Mbasogo International Prize was created

to recognize science that improves the quality of human life. Yet the rule of

President Obiang—the prize’s namesake—has been marked by corruption

and abuse. The prize’s \$3 million endowment should be used

to benefit the people of Equatorial Guinea rather than glorify their president.

The people of Equatorial Guinea should share in the wealth generated by their

country’s huge oil reserves. Instead, they endure poverty and oppression

while money that should go to the people winds up in the private

bank accounts of the president and his associates.

I join in calling on members of UNESCO’s executive board to restore our

trust by reconsidering this prize.”

- Statement by Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu for the Open Society Justice Initiative campaign against the UNESCO/Obiang Prize.

Family members in Bishkek mourned the killing of a 20-year-old man during the April 2010 uprising that led to the ouster of Kyrgyzstan’s president.

© WILLIAM DANIELS/PANOS PICTURES

# 2011 overview

A government accountable to its citizens is one of the cornerstones of an open society, helping to ensure fairness, economic equality, and civic participation. The Open Society Foundations work with governments and civil society to advance transparency, rule of law, and good governance.

The role of the police and their control by civil authorities has been a focus for Open Society Foundations governance and accountability activities. During 2011, the Foundations called the EU's attention to police abuse of citizens in Ukraine and brought two cases involving deaths while in police custody in Kyrgyzstan to the UN Human Rights Committee. In April, the Open Society Central Eurasia Project commissioned a report that documented the challenges that the international community and organizations like the OSCE have faced in trying to implement democratic reforms and civilian control in Kyrgyzstan and other Central Asian countries.

In advance of what were likely to be flawed November elections in the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Open Society Foundations urged the European Union not to boycott election monitoring,



but to remain engaged in the process in order to maintain some influence with decision makers and activists in the country. The Foundations called on Hungary, holding the presidency of the Council of the European Union for the first half of 2011, to challenge the misuse of structural funds for creating isolated institutional facilities for people with disabilities rather than community-based housing.

In the aftermath of Haiti's devastating earthquake, the Soros Economic Development Fund worked to stabilize the country and promote development by providing a \$3 million loan to generate 1,400 new jobs in Haiti's only fully operational free trade zone.

The Open Society Foundations furthered efforts to promote good governance by launching the Transparency and Accountability Initiative at the beginning of the year. The initiative brings together eight international donors to explore the impact and effectiveness of transparency and accountability in aiding poverty reduction, increasing civil society participation, and promoting better governance. Planned reports will deliver examples of change and recommendations for improving transparency and accountability in five key areas: climate change, donor aid, natural resource governance, budget transparency, and financial reform. In September, the Open Society Washington Office issued a report defending the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act against proposals that would weaken its effective antibribery measures.



# 2010 highlights

## Exchanges Rebuild Ties Between Serbia and Kosovo

The Open Society foundation in Kosovo used a number of exchanges to ease the political, social, and economic tensions between Kosovo and Serbia. In October, a delegation of 30 Serbian civil society leaders, members of parliament, and prominent cultural figures visited their counterparts in Kosovo for a two-day meeting to get acquainted and discuss future civil society initiatives. In December, the foundation partnered with the Helsinki Committee for Human Rights in Serbia to organize a visit by six delegations of moderate politicians and leading intellectuals from Serbia during Kosovo's first elections since it declared independence from Serbia in 2008. The delegations aimed to counter a boycott of the elections by ethnic Serbs by visiting Serb enclaves and encouraging residents to vote.

## Think Tanks Take Action against Corruption in Europe

Open Society Foundations efforts to promote good governance in Europe included exposing government cost overruns, tracking violations of political party financing laws, and holding politicians accountable for election campaign promises. One grantee, the Environmental Law Service, investigated why the construction of power plants in the Czech Republic cost 50 percent more than in neighboring countries, prompting public discussions about the need for greater transparency and closer auditing of projects. In Hungary, think tanks monitoring political party financing of national elections revealed that all parties had exceeded the legal limits, with the two largest parties overspending by 68 and 65 percent respectively. Civil society groups in Slovakia monitored campaign promises made by politicians and compared them to actions once in office to reveal several cases of fiscal irresponsibility and corruption.

Liberian National Police patrolled a neighborhood in Monrovia in 2004, before decades of conflict ended and the building of democracy began.

© TIM HETHERINGTON

## Bulgaria Declassifies Information about Its Police Force

Twenty years after the fall of communism in Bulgaria, the Ministry of Interior finally declassified information about its staff, including information showing that the country has over 33,800 police officers or staff with policing powers. This gives Bulgaria 444 police officers per 100,000 inhabitants, the sixth largest police force in the European Union—twice the size of the police force of the Netherlands and almost three times that of Finland. Yet the Bulgarian criminal justice system is criticized by national and EU observers for slowness, corruption, and inefficiency. Declassifying the information is a step toward increased transparency of police management and more active civil and parliamentary control over law enforcement institutions, a move the Open Society Foundations and other human rights groups have long advocated.

## Exposés of Inequality and Corruption Meet Resistance from Mexico to Mongolia

Budget monitoring efforts supported by the Open Society Foundations exposed inequality and corruption in government programs designed to help the poor, but officials continued to resist reforms. In Mexico, grantee Fundar showed that programs meant to assist subsistence farmers were funneling big subsidies to prosperous producers, including

senior government officials and relatives of notorious drug traffickers. The minister of agriculture, while defending his own family's right to subsidies, ousted two top officials and promised to clean up the subsidy list. Fundar argued that purging a few names from the list would fail to address the core problem of rural inequalities fueled by abuse of government funds. In Mongolia, NGOs supported by the Open Society Forum exposed local government misuse of welfare money, including contracts with nonexistent organizations, but a court ruled in favor of the government.

## Kazakhstan Launches Citizens Budgets

An Open Society–funded NGO in Kazakhstan created a citizens budget that can empower civil society and increase participation in governance. The first document of its kind in Kazakhstan and more widely Central Asia, the budget promotes transparency and accountability by making budget information more accessible and comprehensible to civil society groups and citizens. It has received strong support from NGO representatives, public finance professionals, and government auditors from seven countries in the region. By early 2011, the Ministry of Finance had worked with NGO representatives to develop procedures and to post the citizens budget online.

## **Exposé Reveals Burma Regime's Ties to Illegal Drugs**

A report released by a Burmese women's organization exposed the extensive involvement of Burma's military regime in the international illegal drug trade. Based on two years of extensive research by the Palaung Women's Organization, an Open Society Foundations grantee, the report documents how officials in Burma—now the world's second largest producer of opium after Afghanistan—routinely extort “fees” from farmers in exchange for allowing them to grow opium, particularly in areas where the junta claims to be conducting poppy eradication programs. Analysts concluded that the Burmese government's “war on drugs” is a sham and that illegal drug earnings are crucial to the regime's financial survival while criminalizing large sectors of the economy.

## **Campaign Increases Voter Turnout and Proxy Voting by Disabled in Poland**

A get-out-the-vote campaign by a civic coalition led by the Open Society foundation in Poland helped register voters who were residing or traveling outside their districts, including thousands of disabled and elderly voters who had been unable to vote before. The campaign increased the number of voters registering outside their districts and raised the voter turnout in the 2010 presidential election to 55 percent, continuing a recent

trend of rising voter participation after years of decline. Coalition efforts also prompted new proxy voting options that allowed over 10,000 disabled and elderly citizens to apply to vote. The campaign to encourage local women leaders to run for office resulted in a number of wins in local council and mayoral races.

## **Civil Society Groups Respond to U.S. Foreclosure and Mortgage Crisis**

Open Society Foundations grantees joined with community organizations to create a new alliance to prevent foreclosures and ensure access to fair credit in low- and moderate-income communities. The two grantees, the National People's Action and the PICO congregation-based network, worked to mobilize citizens to demand reform and develop programs to provide assistance for unemployed homeowners. Other grantees brought attention to the dysfunction and fraud plaguing the mortgage-lending industry that led to new laws and agencies to bring relief to wrongfully foreclosed families.



SPEED  
LIMIT  
25

## UNESCO Reconsiders Prize from President of Equatorial Guinea

Following years of pressure, UNESCO agreed in October 2011 to suspend a prize funded by and named for President Teodoro Obiang of Equatorial Guinea. UNESCO's reconsideration of the prize honoring Obiang, leader of one of the most corrupt and abusive regimes in the world, was largely influenced by a broad coalition convened by the Open Society Justice Initiative and partner groups. The coalition mobilized prominent Africans, Nobel laureates, public health professionals, UNESCO prize winners, Latin American literary figures, Equatoguineans, and government officials to publicly shame Obiang for his efforts to use UNESCO to burnish his reputation and distract from his regime's appalling abuses. The scrutiny created a public relations crisis and embarrassed both the Obiang regime and UNESCO. A special UNESCO working group was unable to resolve the crisis and sent the issue back to UNESCO's executive board. In an extraordinarily divided and public vote, the board decided in March 2012 to let the prize go forward under the new name of the "UNESCO-Equatorial Guinea" prize. Continuing questions about the prize's financing and funding sources, however, prompted UNESCO legal advisors to conclude that the prize as originally proposed was no longer feasible.

## U.S. Census Possibly Overlooks Thousands of People of Color in Texas

A civil society group's analysis of 2010 census data revealed a significant undercount that potentially overlooked thousands of Texas residents. The Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF), an Open Society Foundations grantee, gathered evidence in the Rio Grande Valley after the Census Bureau decided not to mail census questionnaires to hundreds of thousands of Texas residents living in rural colonias—impoverished, marginalized communities often made up of people of color. In 2011, MALDEF proposed redistricting maps for the Texas State House, the Texas Senate, and Congress that reflect the growth of the Latino population in the Rio Grande Valley.

An empty boarded-up house in Cleveland, Ohio, USA, 2009.

© JAN JOHANNESSEN/PANOS PICTURES

# education





# and youth

**“We are social agronomists. We do not stay in offices and manage projects.**

I want to show people in urban areas how they can grow food with things they

**once threw away. We have a system that uses soda bottles to raise gardens.**

Our hydroponic system can grow vegetables in plastic bags.”

— Amos Montruil Jean, Open Society Foundations’ EARTH University scholar.

# 2011 overview

The Open Society Foundations' education and youth programs advance a holistic approach to teaching while its advocacy and debate initiatives strive to ensure that young people of different backgrounds have equal access to education and individual expression.

A grant from the Open Society Foundations helped produce the film *Our School*, which followed the lives of three Roma schoolchildren caught up in a school desegregation effort in a small Romanian town. Released early in the year, the film depicts the emotions and challenges that desegregation can bring to individuals and communities. In the aftermath of Council of Europe findings in March that the Czech Republic had done little to end the segregation of Roma students into inferior “special” schools, the Open Society Justice Initiative called upon the Czech government to fully implement policies to end school segregation across the country.

The Justice Initiative launched new efforts to get the United Nation's Committee on the Rights of the Child to improve children's rights to citizenship and access to education by strengthening requirements for states to give citizenship to children based on where they are born. The Campaign for Youth Justice, an Open Society Foundations grantee in the United States, continued to make progress in ending the practice of trying,

sentencing, and incarcerating youth (under the age of 18) as adults. At the start of the year, 24 states had either changed or were considering reforming their laws on juvenile sentencing and incarceration. In Russia, Information Agency MEMO.RU responded to data on young people's decreasing levels of knowledge about Russian history and their lack of involvement in public affairs by launching a subway poster campaign. The posters commemorated the 90th anniversary of Soviet dissident Andrei Sakharov's birth and encouraged people to speak out on ideas and issues important to them.

Two of the Open Society Foundations' primary scholarship and education programs, the Scholarship Programs and the Higher Education Support Program, either issued or called for applications for a wide range of scholarships and grants, including scholarship program alumni grants, human rights internships, teaching seminars for junior higher education faculty in South Eastern Europe and Eurasia, university student project proposals, supplementary funding for doctoral studies, and supplementary grants for Burmese students studying outside of Burma.

The Open Society Foundations announced \$20 million in funding to strengthen debate programs around the world so that young people would be prepared to participate in policy decisions critical to their future. In New York City, the Foundations pledged \$30 million toward a partnership with the city for educational, employment, mentoring, and responsible fatherhood programs to transform the lives of vulnerable black and Latino boys.



# 2010 highlights

## Film Exposes School Segregation in Bosnia

*The Children*, a documentary about how Bosnia and Herzegovina's ethnically divided schools adversely affect children's attitudes, provided strong support for efforts to change the country's education system. Praised by education professionals who viewed the film at events across the country, *The Children* focuses on students at three schools in Bosnia to reveal how segregation and exclusion continue to divide society. Produced by the young Bosnian filmmaker Aida Begić and supported by the Open Society foundation in Bosnia, UNICEF, and Save the Children–Norway, the film was broadcast on national TV in 2011 as part of a civil society campaign to eliminate discrimination and inequality in the education system.

## African and European Women Exchange Ideas about Fighting Poverty

For 10 days in November, 60 women from civil society groups in Slovenia and Rwanda met in Kigali and exchanged ideas and experiences about developing tourism and commerce that benefit women and protect the environment. Initiated by the Peace Institute, an Open Society Foundations grantee in Slovenia, as part of its efforts to analyze conflict escalation in transitional periods, the exchange focuses on developing forms of tourism that benefit the community, respect the local environment, and fight poverty by economically empowering women. By early 2011, women participating in the program in Kigali were generating income for themselves as tour guides and by providing services to tourists.

## Universities Strengthen Human Rights Education in Azerbaijan and Ukraine

With support from the Open Society Foundations, universities in Azerbaijan and Ukraine initiated and strengthened the first human rights degree programs in each country. In Ukraine, the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy began offering a bachelor's degree in human rights. In Azerbaijan, Baku State University continued to develop its recently established master's degree program in human rights. The programs are part of the many higher education changes supported by the Open Society Foundations, including the establishment by returning Open Society academic fellows of anthropology programs in Mongolia, new courses on gender, social work, children's rights, and the rights of the disabled in Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Ukraine, and university public interest law clinics in Georgia and Ukraine.

## Open Society Responds to Economic Crisis in Latvia and Macedonia

Using money from the \$100 million fund established by the Open Society Foundations in response to the global economic crisis, the foundations in Latvia and Macedonia turned to the schools to help impoverished students and families. In Latvia, the foundation worked with civil society groups, education agencies, and local governments to turn 53 schools into multifunctional community centers that met a variety of community needs as programs were cut by the government. In Macedonia, the foundation established a project that provided over 19,000 impoverished children in 309 schools with school supplies that helped them continue their studies.

## Campaign Brings the Power of Reading to Roma and Others

The “Read with Us” campaign, a cultural and literacy development project supported by the Open Society Roma Initiatives, collected over 10,000 books, visited 14 locations in Hungary—many of them remote villages with Roma populations—and promoted reading to children, families, and schools in need. The project's rolling book donation events and the participation of celebrity reading mentors aimed to increase the sense of personal and corporate responsibility between those who donate and the recipient schools and communities. All events worked to promote social dialogue by including both Roma and non-Roma children and adults.

## **Students Learn Sustainable Agriculture to Help Their Communities**

To help empower impoverished rural communities in Haiti, Liberia, Mozambique, and Sierra Leone, the Open Society Scholarship Programs supported 15 students from these countries studying social agronomy at EARTH University in Costa Rica. Students at the university learn organic farming, urban vegetable gardening, animal husbandry, microfinance, business management, marketing, water conservation, and the production of clean energy from waste. “I want to help my people produce more and reduce poverty,” said a scholarship recipient from Haiti. “I will go back and show my grandmother what I have learned. She can then teach the rest of the farmers in her village.”

## **Young People Engage in Youth Policy Reform in Kazakhstan**

A national youth conference supported by the Open Society foundation in Kazakhstan brought together 250 young people to get them interested and engaged in public life, law, and policymaking. Parliamentarians and ministry officials also attended to hear what the young activists had to say. Afterwards, the director of Kazakhstan’s department for youth proposed ideas from the conference as the main recommendations for a new law on youth policy. Young conference attendees also made public service announcements on issues ranging from environmental protection to

rights of the disabled; 11 announcements were selected for broadcast on television and online.

## **Civil Society Helps Reduce Drop-out Rates in U.S. City of Baltimore**

Drop-out rates for Baltimore’s public school students in the 2009–2010 school year reached a 20-year low, with analysts and local media attributing much of the improvement to the increased school success of African-American male students. After decades of drop-out rates that exceeded 10 percent, the 2009–2010 data showed that only 4 percent of city children did not finish school. Efforts by the Open Society Foundations’ Baltimore office and its grantees contributed to this progress by showing how the over-use of suspension, particularly for black boys, leads to students dropping out. Baltimore staff and grantees collaborated on research, created public education efforts, developed model programs, and worked with school officials to reform the system’s harsh discipline policies.

# 2010 expenditures

This report describes charitable activities undertaken by the Open Society Foundations, including the Open Society Institute and other U.S.-based organizations, in accordance with regulations applicable to 501 (c) (3) organizations. It also describes activities carried out and funded by the Open Society Policy Center, a 501 (c) (4) organization, or foreign entities financed by non-U.S.-sourced funding.



## Foundations

Albania	\$ 3,131,000
Armenia	3,950,000
Azerbaijan	4,054,000
Bosnia and Herzegovina	3,803,000
Bulgaria	4,250,000
Czech Republic	2,054,000
East Africa	10,864,000
Estonia	2,608,000
Georgia	4,899,000
Guatemala	1,272,000
Haiti	5,736,000
Kazakhstan	3,189,000
Kosovo	4,045,000
Kyrgyzstan	4,357,000
Latvia	4,925,000
Macedonia	5,791,000
Moldova	10,816,000
Mongolia	1,208,000
Montenegro	1,070,000
Poland	6,116,000
Romania	5,694,000
Russia	6,373,000
Serbia	7,284,000
Slovakia	2,762,000
South Africa	7,641,000
Southern Africa	29,994,000
Tajikistan	4,288,000
Turkey	2,118,000
Ukraine	12,420,000
West Africa	7,897,000
<b>TOTAL FOUNDATIONS</b>	<b>\$ 174,609,000</b>

### Notes:

The above foundations expenditures of \$174,609,000 include expenditures for \$15,123,979 made against third party contributions.

In order to fully reflect the foundations expenditures, the Foundations section includes expenditures against allocations made by the various thematic programs. The Thematic Programs section also reflects the foundations expenditures for the same programs. This results in a significant double count, which is taken into account as an interorganization elimination in the amount of \$50,547,000.

## Regional Programs

Belarus Support	\$ 1,555,000
Burma Project/Indonesia/Southeast Asia Initiative	12,373,000
Central Eurasia/Middle East Projects	20,974,000
China Grants	5,285,000
Latin America Regional Initiatives	14,692,000
Nepal and Bhutan Initiatives	1,818,000
Other African Initiatives	2,019,000
Other Europe Initiatives	5,068,000
<b>TOTAL REGIONAL PROGRAMS</b>	<b>\$ 63,784,000</b>

### Notes:

The above figure for the Latin America Regional Initiatives reflect a cash basis figure. The 2010 accrual figure is \$14,076,000.

## Thematic Programs

Africa Government Monitoring & Advocacy Program	\$ 1,988,000
Arts and Culture Programs	2,854,000
At Home in Europe	1,264,000
Climate Change Adaptation in Africa	2,041,000
Climate Change Initiative	1,382,000
Combating Violent Crime	552,000
Documentary Photography Project	1,270,000
Early Childhood Program	5,446,000
East East: Partnership Beyond Borders	5,027,000
Education Support Program	9,471,000
Global Drug Policy	5,467,000
Human Rights and Governance Grants	15,642,000
Information Program	6,186,000
International Higher Education Support Program	23,825,000
International Migration Initiatives	1,969,000
International Women's Initiatives	9,394,000
Local Government Initiative	12,829,000
Network Scholarship Programs	20,673,000
Open Society Fellowships	1,273,000
Open Society Justice Initiative	14,073,000
Open Society Media Program	14,640,000
Public Health Program	35,926,000
Roma Education Fund	6,330,000
Roma Initiatives	4,508,000
Soros Economic Development Fund	11,434,000
Think Tank	3,136,000
Youth Initiatives	4,180,000
<b>TOTAL THEMATIC PROGRAMS</b>	<b>\$222,780,000</b>

## U.S. Programs

Campaign for a New Drug Policy	\$ 8,534,000
Campaign for Black Male Achievement	5,965,000
Criminal Justice Fund	13,472,000
Democracy and Power Fund	12,874,000
Equality and Opportunity Fund	19,147,000
National Security and Human Rights Campaign	8,430,000
Open Society Institute–Baltimore	5,083,000
Special Fund for Poverty Alleviation	79,691,000
Strategic Opportunities Fund	7,197,000
Transparency and Integrity Fund	14,239,000
U.S. Programs General Fund	\$2,392,000
Other U.S. Initiatives	18,095,000
<b>TOTAL U.S. PROGRAMS</b>	<b>\$ 195,119,000</b>

**Notes:**

\* Other U.S. Initiatives include historical U.S. Programs spending, legacy spending, the U.S. Programs Performing Arts Recovery Initiative and newly created Chairman's and Board Initiated Special Grants.

## Institutional Grants

### Chairman's Grants

National Dance Institute	\$ 5,000,000
Compassion and Choices	2,000,000
National Council for Civil Liberties (Liberty UK)	1,485,000
Media Matters for America	1,000,000
Trustees for Columbia University	800,000
Independent Diplomat	600,000
Media Legal Defence Initiative	321,000
Institute for State Effectiveness	250,000
Democracy Coalition Project	233,000
Crisis Management Initiative	191,000
International Center in New York	176,000
Other Chairman's Grants	4,795,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 16,851,000</b>

### President's Grants

Physicians for Human Rights	\$ 500,000
International Center for Transitional Justice	300,000
International Senior Lawyers Project	275,000
National Institute for Military Justice	255,000
Campaign for Innocent Victims of Conflict	250,000
Center for Justice and Accountability	200,000
International Women's Health Coalition	200,000
American University, Washington College of Law	170,000
American University, Washington College of Law	163,000
Global Rights	150,000
Hoover Library and Archive, Stanford University	150,000
Other President's Grants	2,452,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 5,065,000</b>

<b>Executive Vice President’s Grants</b>	<b>\$ 4,911,000</b>
<b>Transparency and Accountability</b>	<b>9,107,000</b>
<b>Other Institutional Grants</b>	<b>52,167,000</b>
<b>TOTAL INSTITUTIONAL GRANTS</b>	<b>\$ 88,101,000</b>

**Notes:**

The above figure reflected for “Other Institutional Grants” includes a grant to Human Rights Watch for \$1,000,000 on a cash basis, for which the total accrual grant is \$101,000,000. It also includes a grant to the Harlem Children’s Zone for \$15,000,000 on a cash basis, for which the total accrual grant is \$50,000,000.

## All Other Organizations, Programs, and Costs

Advocacy Offices (excluding Washington)	\$ 7,876,000
Central European University	41,000
Charitable Events Fund	201,000
Emergency Funds	45,010,000
Knowledge Management	996,000
Open Society Washington, D.C. Office	6,881,000
Other Grants	1,616,000
Project Syndicate	399,000
Rights Initiatives	14,641,000
U.S. Charities	1,471,000
Administration	46,860,000
<b>TOTAL ALL OTHER ORGANIZATIONS, PROGRAMS, AND COSTS</b>	<b>\$ 125,992,000</b>

## Total Open Society Foundations Expenditures

Foundations	\$ 174,609,000
Regional Programs	63,784,000
Thematic Programs	222,780,000
U.S. Programs	195,119,000
Institutional Grants	88,101,000
All Other Organizations, Programs, and Costs	125,992,000
Interorganization Elimination	(50,547,000)
<b>TOTAL OPEN SOCIETY FOUNDATIONS EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$ 819,838,000</b>

**Notes:**

The above expenditures are on the accrual basis of accounting, unless otherwise noted in the various expenditure sections. Expenditures include purchases of fixed assets.

## OPEN SOCIETY FOUNDATIONS

[www.soros.org](http://www.soros.org)

### NEW YORK

(212) 548 0600

### BRUSSELS

(32 2) 505 4646

### BUDAPEST

(36 1) 882 3100

### LONDON

(44) 207 031 0200

### WASHINGTON, D.C.

(202) 721 5600

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#### COVER PHOTOGRAPH

Abul Kalam pointed toward his home across the river Naaf, which divides Burma and Bangladesh. Born in Burma, Kalam lived in a refugee camp in Bangladesh for years. 2009 © Saiful Huq Omi

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The Open Society Foundations work to build vibrant and tolerant democracies whose governments are accountable to their citizens.

Open societies are characterized by the rule of law; respect for human rights, minorities, and a diversity of opinions; democratically elected governments; market economies in which business and government are separate; and a civil society that helps keep government power in check.

To achieve our mission, we seek to shape public policies that assure greater fairness in political, legal, and economic systems and safeguard fundamental rights.

We implement initiatives to advance justice, education, public health, and independent media.

We build alliances across borders and continents on issues such as corruption and freedom of information. Working in every part of the world, the Open Society Foundations place a high priority on protecting and improving the lives of people in marginalized communities.



**OPEN SOCIETY**  
FOUNDATIONS

